

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, September 19, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Senate Chair Ralph Okerlund  
House Chair Roger E. Barrus  
Sen. Casey O. Anderson  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Brad L. Dee  
Rep. Jack R. Draxler  
Rep. Brad J. Galvez  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Rep. Douglas Sagers  
Rep. Evan J. Vickers  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Allen M. Christensen  
Rep. Bill Wright

**Staff Present:**

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Tracy J. Nuttall, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Anna M. Allen, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Okerlund called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Watkins moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012, committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis, Sen. Dayton, Rep. Brown, Rep. Dee, Rep. Draxler, Rep. Ivory, and Rep. Vickers absent for the vote.

**2. Consumer Electronic Device Recycling**

Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, discussed and distributed "Recycling of Electronic Waste." Mr. Anderson explained that this report is required by 2011 General Session S.B. 184, "Disposal of Electronic Waste Act," which relates to the recycling of electronic waste. He discussed what manufacturers are doing to provide recycling options for the state and described efforts to educate the public on recycling electronic waste. Mr. Anderson responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Patrick Sheehan, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, described specific locations to recycle in Cache County in response to a question from Rep. Draxler.

**3. Water Rights Study**

Mr. Michael Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, discussed and distributed "Executive Water Task Force–Approvals." Mr. Styler stated that the task force recommends twelve bills to the committee in this report, and briefly described each of them. Mr. Styler called on Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer, Division of Water Rights, to assist him in explaining each bill. Mr. Styler and Mr. Jones responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Rep. Briscoe moved that the committee consider four of the twelve bills as a priority for the November 14, 2012, meeting and that staff work with, and share drafts with, the Executive Water Task Force under the direction of the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the State Engineer. The four proposed bills to be prioritized from the 2012 General Session are: (1) H.B. 368, (2) H.B.486, (3) H.B. 369, and (4) S.B. 187. The motion passed with Sen. Anderson, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Mathis voting in opposition to the motion and Sen. Dayton absent for the vote.

#### **4. Energy Producer States' Agreement**

Rep. Barrus discussed the Energy Producer States Coalition, which requires an annual report from Utah legislators appointed to work with legislative members of other energy-producing states on promoting energy production. He discussed the coalition's funding, structure, and goals. He also described the affiliation/relationship between the coalition and the Consumer Energy Alliance. Rep. Barrus responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Noel commended Rep. Barrus's work with the Energy Producer States Coalition and encouraged the committee to endorse the continued funding of this organization.

#### **5. Sunset Review - Section 36-12-20 (Energy Producer States' Agreement)**

Rep. Barrus explained that Utah Code Section 36-12-20, "Energy Producer States' Agreement," is set to sunset on June 30, 2013. Rep. Barrus stated that the coalition is just starting to work toward improving energy security within the nation. He described that the coalition consists of legislators working together to develop resources. He asked that the committee not let the act sunset and, instead, give it the chance to grow.

**MOTION:** Rep. Mathis moved to extend Utah Code Section 36-12-20, "Energy Producer States' Agreement," for five years. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis, Sen. Dayton, Rep. Briscoe, and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

#### **6. Transfer of Public Lands Study**

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Coordinator, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, described the progress of the Constitutional Defense Council in its study of the transfer of public lands to the states. She stated that a final report will be presented in November. She also discussed the history of the transfer of public lands and talked specifically about former Governor Scott Matheson's involvement with the issue. Ms. Clarke responded to questions from the committee.

#### **7. State Land Management**

Mr. Styler introduced a panel of state government officials who discussed their responsibilities for the management of state lands.

Ms. Clarke first discussed the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office. She described the office's role as a liaison between federal and state agencies to preserve access to public lands within Utah. She also mentioned some of the projects that the office is currently working on including R.S. 2477 road rights and the sage grouse population.

Mr. Dick Buehler, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, discussed the presentation "Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands." He described the division's responsibilities including managing mineral resources and utility crossings, issuing rights of entry permits, and providing access to sovereign lands. He also discussed how the division manages wildfires and protects communities that are at risk from these fires. Mr. Buehler responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Kevin Carter, Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, discussed his presentation "School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration." He talked about the locations of the various trust lands throughout Utah and stated that the majority of land managed by the administration is for schools. He also discussed the administration's responsibilities as defined in the Trust Lands Management Act. Mr. Carter responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Mike Canning, Habitat Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources, discussed his presentation "Utah's State Wildlife Management Areas." He explained the purpose of wildlife management areas and described the different types of areas. He also described the differences between state and federal land management, focusing on active management, energy development, grazing, and land use planning.

Mr. Fred Hayes, Director, Division of State Parks and Recreation, discussed his presentation "Utah State Parks and Recreation." He discussed how with 43 state parks, the division manages activities more than it manages lands. Mr. Hayes stated that because much of the land in state parks is owned by other people/entities, when the division does manage land, it works with land owners to do so. He went on to say that the division manages the land for anyone who wants to have a positive recreational experience.

## **8. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Draxler, Rep. Hendrickson, Rep. Vickers, and Rep. Wilcox absent for the vote.

Chair Okerlund adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.